Defence White Paper 2015

Defence White Papers are the Government’s most important guidance about Australia’s long-term defence policy settings and capability. They include some of the largest, most expensive and complicated decisions Governments must make – decisions that will influence our nation’s defence and national security, encompassing both territorial sovereignty and political independence, for decades to come.

The Defence White Paper 2015 will allow the Government to take stock of the long-term opportunities and challenges for Australia’s defence and security. It will align Defence policy with a clear military strategy and deliver a costed, affordable plan to achieve Australia’s defence and national security objectives.

Public Consultation

The 2015 Defence White Paper is being informed by a public consultation process. The Government is seeking the Australian community’s views on the following key questions:

- What are the main threats to, and opportunities for, Australia’s security?
- Are Defence’s policy settings current and accurate?
- What defence capabilities do we need now, and in the future?
- How can we enhance international engagement on defence and security issues?
- What should the relationship be between Defence and defence industry to support Defence’s mission?
- How should Defence invest in its people, and how should it continue to enhance its culture?

You can contribute in a number of ways. The White Paper Expert Panel will host a series of meetings around the country during which Australian defence policy will be discussed in greater depth. These will enable the academic community, public policy think-tanks and members of the public to discuss and contribute to future defence policy. The Expert Panel will also meet with representatives of Australian industry. The schedule for these meetings will be posted on the Defence website.

Detailed submissions can also be provided in writing. Submissions can address any relevant topic and the Defence Issues Paper provides guidance on suggested broad themes. Written submissions will be accepted until 29 October 2014.

Submissions can be lodged at the 2015 Defence White Paper internet site, or by sending your submission in hardcopy to the Department of Defence.